

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A companion animal composition comprising from about 0.01% to 0.19% added short chain oligofructose, by weight of the composition, wherein the short chain oligofructose comprises 1-kestose, nystose, and 1F-beta-fructofuranosylnystose, of such that the short chain oligofructose comprises from about 30% to about 40% 1-kestose, from about 50% to about 60% nystose, and from about 5% to about 15% 1F-beta-fructofuranosylnystose, by weight of the short chain oligofructose; and further comprising a fiber source additional to the short chain oligofructose, wherein the fiber source is selected from the group consisting of beet pulp (from sugar beet), gum arabic, gum talha, psyllium, rice bran, carob bean gum, citrus pulp, pectin, fructooligosaccharide additional to the short chain oligofructose, mannanoligofructose, soy fiber, arabinogalactan, galactooligosaccharide, arabinoxylan, and mixtures thereof;
wherein the composition further comprises crude protein at from 20% to 35%, by weight of the composition, wherein the crude protein is derived from a protein source selected from the group consisting of beef, pork, lamb, poultry, fish, vegetable, and mixtures thereof;
wherein the companion animal composition is a nutritionally balanced dog food or a cat food.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The companion animal composition according to Claim 2 comprising from about 0.05% to 0.19% of the short chain oligofructose, by weight of the composition.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The companion animal composition according to Claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the fiber source is selected from the group consisting of beet pulp, gum arabic, gum talha, psyllium, rice bran, carob bean gum, citrus pulp, pectin, fructooligosaccharide additional to the short chain oligofructose, mannanoligofructose, soy fiber, arabinogalactan, galactooligosaccharide, arabinoxylan, and mixtures thereof.
7. (Previously Presented) The companion animal composition according to Claim 1 comprising from about 0.1% to about 0.18% of the short chain oligofructose, by weight of the composition.
8. (Previously Presented) The companion animal composition according to Claim 7 which is selected from the group consisting of dry composition, wet composition, and mixtures thereof, wherein the composition is nutritionally balanced.
9. (Withdrawn) A method selected from the group consisting of improving gastrointestinal health of a companion animal, improving fecal odor of the feces of a companion animal, and combinations thereof, comprising administering to the companion animal the companion animal composition according to Claim 1.
10. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 9 wherein the short chain oligofructose comprises from about 30% to about 40% 1-kestose, from about 50% to about 60% nystose, and from about 5% to about 15% 1F-beta-fructofuranosylnystose, by weight of the short chain oligofructose.
11. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 10 wherein the composition comprises from about 0.05% to about 0.19% of the short chain oligofructose, by weight of the composition.

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12. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 11 wherein the composition further comprises a protein source selected from the group consisting of beef, pork, lamb, poultry, fish, vegetable, and mixtures thereof.
13. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 12 wherein the composition comprises from about 0.1% to about 0.18% of the short chain oligofructose, by weight of the composition.
14. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 13 wherein the composition is administered at least once daily.
15. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 14 wherein the companion animal is selected from the group consisting of dogs, cats, and combinations thereof.
16. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 15 wherein small intestine bacterial overgrowth is treated in the companion animal.
17. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 15 wherein increased short chain fatty acid concentrations in the feces of the companion animal is exhibited.
18. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 15 wherein fecal matter quality is improved in the companion animal.
19. (Withdrawn) A method of reducing risk of cancer in a companion animal, comprising administering to the companion animal the companion animal composition according to Claim 1.
20. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 19 wherein the short chain oligofructose comprises from about 30% to about 40% 1-kestose, from about 50% to about 60% nystose, and from about 5% to about 15% 1F-beta-fructofuranosylnystose, by weight of the short chain oligofructose.